

# Teaching with Primary Sources at DePaul University

## November 2013 Newsletter: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and more!

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Greetings, educators!

Between Election Day and the start of the holiday season, November is always a busy month. Fortunately, the Library has you covered! November contains three major holidays: Veterans Day, the beginning of Hanukkah, and Thanksgiving Day. The Library's extensive collections make it a perfect place to find resources on the history and importance of these three holidays.

### Important Dates in October

Election Day: Tuesday, November 5

Veterans Day: Monday, November 11

Hanukkah: Wednesday, November 27-Thursday, December 5

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 28

### RESERVE YOUR SPOT! UPCOMING **FREE** TPS LEVEL I AND LEVEL II WORKSHOP SERIES

Spend some time with TPS and learn about using primary sources to support student inquiry. All successful Level I participants are invited to register for our Level II program.

#### Level II: Content Analysis, Lesson Planning, and Curriculum Alignment with Primary Sources (subject TBD)

- Winter Session: February 15, 22, and March 15 (dates subject to change)

All sessions will be held at DePaul's suburban campus in Naperville and will take place from 9am– 1pm on scheduled dates. Participants will earn 12 CPDUs for the entire workshop. We provide a broad array of materials (including USB drives and handouts), as well as refreshments, for all participants. We're also happy to come to your school for an on-site program! For more information, please contact David Bates at [dbates2@depaul.edu](mailto:dbates2@depaul.edu).

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Veterans Day**

##### *Veterans History Project*

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>

The Veterans History Project collects the life stories of American veterans, from World War I through the present day. Many of these interviews contain digitized materials, including video interviews and printed transcripts, biographies and memoirs, and even mementos from the veterans' time in the military. Find more information about the project [here](#), or jump right in and begin [searching](#) or [browsing](#) the collection. Note that you can search by war, branch of service, home state, gender, or even race/ethnicity, making this a perfect springboard to a research project and a great way to show students the courageous contributions that people of all walks of life have made in protecting the United States.

Also be sure to check out the special presentations [Experiencing War: Stories from the Veterans History Project](#), which gather a variety of testimonies from veterans centered on specific themes, such as "Women of Four Wars," "Jewish Veterans of World War II," and "Chaplains: On a Divine Mission."

*Today in History (November 11): Veterans Day*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov11.html>

On November 11, 1918, Allied forces signed a ceasefire with Germany, officially ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first “Armistice Day” to celebrate peace and honor the sacrifices of Americans who had served in the war. After World War II, it was renamed Veterans Day, in honor of all American veterans.

*The Stars and Stripes: The American Soldiers’ Newspaper of World War I, 1918-1919*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sgphtml/sashtml/sashome.html>

This American Memory database collects all seventy-one weekly issues of *The Stars and Stripes*, a newspaper published by the U.S. Army for its troops during World War I. The newspapers contain cartoons, as well as news, human interest stories, and sports scores from home. At its peak, *The Stars and Stripes* reached more than half a million U.S. troops.

*American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I and the 1920 Election*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/nfhtml/>

This American Memory collection consists of 59 sound recordings from 1918 and 1919. Most of the recordings discuss World War I and the presidential election of 1920, which occurred after the war. Speakers include presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge, future presidents Warren G. Harding and Franklin Roosevelt, labor leader Samuel Gompers, and General John J. Pershing, among others. The length of the recordings ranges from one to five minutes, making them manageable for classroom use.

*Remembering Armistice Day: “I Did My Bit for Democracy”* (Teaching with the Library of Congress Blog)

<http://blogs.loc.gov/teachers/2011/10/remembering-armistice-day-%E2%80%9Ci-did-my-bit-for-democracy%E2%80%9D/>

This entry from the Teaching with the Library of Congress Blog gives some background on Armistice Day—the forerunner to Veterans Day—and gives a link to an interview with African-American World War I veteran Andrew Johnson. In the interview, Johnson discusses his experiences in the “Great War” in some detail. An [excerpt](#) is available, as well as the [full interview](#).

## Hanukkah

*Today in History (December 15): Happy Hanukkah*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec15.html>

Hanukkah begins early this year—sundown on November 27. This Jewish holiday commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem in 164 or 165 BCE. The “Festival of Lights” recalls the Talmudic story of the Temple's one-day supply of oil miraculously burning for eight days. Learn more about various Library collections related to Hanukkah and Jewish life through this Today in History entry. For more information, visit the American Memory collection [American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers’s Project, 1936-1940](#) and search the term *Jewish* to find oral interviews on a variety of topics, including Jewish-American religious traditions and Yiddish folklore.

*From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America*

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/>

In this online exhibition, the Library has gathered more than 200 of its treasures of American Judaica, ranging from 1496 through the present day. The exhibition includes an interactive timeline as well as

digital copies of items, complete with explanations and links to further reading. This exhibition is a perfect way to discuss America's long history of religious diversity with your students.

## **Thanksgiving**

*Today in History (November 25): Thanksgiving Day*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov25.html>

Everyone knows that America's Thanksgiving tradition began with the Pilgrims' celebration of a bountiful harvest in the early 1600s. But Library resources on the topic prove that the holiday has a more interesting history than just feasting. Sporadic thanksgiving days were celebrated throughout U.S. history, with George Washington proclaiming one in 1789 and Abraham Lincoln designating the last Thursday in November to be a national day of thanksgiving in 1863. Only in 1941 did congress officially recognize the fourth Thursday in November as a national holiday. Try searching *Thanksgiving* in [American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers's Project, 1936-1940](#) to find information about Thanksgiving celebrations throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Thanksgiving* (Teachers Page Presentation)

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/thanksgiving/>

In this brief presentation, the Library has gathered a series of primary sources centered on the American practice of Thanksgiving, including the earliest thanksgiving days proclaimed by the Founding Fathers, Thanksgiving for prairie settlers, the battles of Depression-era workers to have the day recognized as a holiday, and Thanksgiving celebrations in the Jewish and African American communities. Be sure to check out the [Thanksgiving Timeline](#) to see how the holiday evolved between 1541 and 2001.